CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for authorizing a network request, the request routed
2   though a network infrastructure to a network device, comprising:
3   communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a network
4   address from which the network request originated; and
5   accepting the network request only upon a determination that the
6   identified network address is authorized.

1   2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein communicating comprises
2   communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a port from which the
3   network request originated.

1   3.   The method of Claim 1, wherein the acts of communicating and
2   accepting are performed by the network device.

1   4.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising reporting use data upon
2   accepting the network request.

1   5.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising accessing policy data to
2   determine if the identified network address is authorized.

1   6.   The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2   accessing policy data specifying authorized network addresses and billing
3   information for one or more authorized network address;
4   recognizing the identified network address as an authorized network
5   address specified by the policy data and obtaining billing information for the
6   identified network address; and
7   reporting use data based on the obtained billing information.

1   7.   A method for printing comprising:

2   receiving a print request routed through a network infrastructure;

3   communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a network

4   address from which the print request originated;

5   determining if the identified network address is authorized; and

6   acting upon the print request only if the identified network address is

7   determined to be authorized.

1   8.   The method of Claim 7, wherein communicating comprises

2   communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a port from which the

3   network request originated.

1   9.   The method of Claim 7, wherein the acts of receiving,

2   communicating, and determining are all performed by a printing device

3   responsible for acting on the print request.

1   10.   The method of Claim 7, further comprising reporting use data if the

2   print request is acted upon.

1   11.   The method of Claim 7, wherein determining comprises accessing

2   policy data specifying authorized network addresses, and searching the policy

3   data for the identified network address.

1   12.   The method of Claim 11, wherein determining further comprises

2   recognizing the identified network address as an authorized network address

3   specified by the policy data, and wherein the policy data includes billing

4   information for the identified network address, the method further comprising

5   reporting use data based upon the billing information.

1   13.   A computer readable medium having instructions for:

2   communicating with a network infrastructure through which a network

3   request was routed to identify a network address from which the network

4   request originated; and

5   accepting the network request only upon a determination that the

6   identified network address is authorized.

1   14.   The medium of Claim 13, wherein the instruction for

2   communicating include instructions for communicating with the network

3   infrastructure to identify a port from which the network request originated.

1   15.   The medium of Claim 13, having further instructions for reporting

2   use data upon accepting the network request.

1   16.   The medium of Claim 13, having further instructions for accessing

2   policy data to determine if the identified network address is authorized.

1   17.   The medium of Claim 13, having further instructions for:

2   accessing policy data specifying authorized network addresses and billing

3   information for one or more authorized network address;

4   recognizing the identified network address as an authorized network

5   address specified by the policy data and obtaining billing information for the

6   identified network address; and

7   reporting use data based on the obtained billing information.

1   18.   A computer readable medium having instructions for

2   receiving a print request routed through a network infrastructure;

3   communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a network

4   address from which the print request originated;

5   determining if the identified network address is authorized; and

6   acting upon the print request only if the identified network address is

7   determined to be authorized.

1   19.   The medium of Claim 18, wherein the instruction for

2   communicating include instructions for communicating with the network

3   infrastructure to identify a port from which the network request originated.

1   20.   The medium of Claim 18, having further instructions for reporting

2   use data if the print request is acted upon.

1   21.   The medium of Claim 18, wherein the instructions for determining

2   include instructions for accessing policy data specifying authorized network

3   addresses and searching the policy data for the identified network address.

1   22.   The medium of Claim 21, wherein the identified network address is

2   recognized as an authorized network address specified by the policy data, and

3   wherein the policy data includes billing information for the identified network

4   address, the medium having further instructions for reporting use data based

5   upon the billing information.

1   23.   A system for authorizing a network request, the request routed

2   though a network infrastructure to a network device, comprising:

3   a source detector operable to communicate with the network

4   infrastructure to identify a network address from which the network request

5   originated; and

6   a request manager operable to accept the network request only upon a

7   determination that the identified network address is authorized.

1   24.   The system of Claim 23, wherein the a source detector is operable

2   to communicate with the network infrastructure to identify a port from which

3   the network request originated.

1   25.   The system of Claim 23, wherein the source manager is operable

2   to report use data upon accepting the network request.

1   26.   The system of Claim 23, wherein the source manager is operable

2   to access policy data to determine if the identified network address is

3   authorized.

1   27.   The system of Claim 23, wherein the request manager is operable
2   to:
3   access policy data specifying authorized network addresses and billing
4   information for one or more authorized network address;
5   recognize the identified network address as an authorized network
6   address specified by the policy data and obtain billing information for the
7   identified network address; and
8   report use data based on the obtained billing information.

1   28.   The system of Claim 23, wherein the source detector and the
2   request manager are embedded in a network device.

1   29.   A network printing device, comprising:
2   functional components operable to act on a print request;
3   a device server operable to receiving a print request routed through a
4   network infrastructure;
5   a source detector operable to communicate with the network
6   infrastructure to identify a network address from which the print request
7   originated; and
8   a request manager operable to determine if the identified network address
9   is authorized and to direct the functional components to act upon the print
10   request only if the identified network address is determined to be authorized.

1   30.   The device of Claim 29, wherein the request manager is operable
2   to report use data if the print request is acted upon.

1   31.   The device of Claim 29, wherein the source detector is operable to
2   determine if the identified network address is authorized by accessing policy
3   data specifying authorized network addresses and searching the policy data for
4   the identified network address.

1   32.   The device of Claim 31, wherein, upon recognizing the identified
2   network address as an authorized network address specified by the policy data,

1   and wherein the policy data includes billing information for the identified

2   network address, the request manager is operable to report use data based upon

3   the billing information.

1   33.   A system for authorizing a network request, the request routed

2   though a network infrastructure to a network device, comprising:

3   a means for communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a

4   network address from which the network request originated; and

5   a means for accepting the network request only upon a determination

6   that the identified network address is authorized.

1   34.   A network printing device, comprising:

2   functional components operable to act on a print request;

3   a means for receiving a print request routed through a network

4   infrastructure;

5   a means for communicating with the network infrastructure to identify a

6   network address from which the print request originated; and

7   a means for determining if the identified network address is authorized

8   and to direct the functional components to act upon the print request only if the

9   identified network address is determined to be authorized.